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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Housing Crisis in Bulgaria	DATE DISTR.	29 December 1954
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD 25X1
		REFERENCES	

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Information

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25X1

1. The housing crisis in Bulgaria continues to grow ever worse, particularly in Sofia, in spite of the so-called accomplishments of the Bulgarian Government. Apart from a few privileged members of the Communist Party and of the Army, the majority of Bulgarian families are forced to live five or more to a room. Often three generations live together in this manner and it is not rare for high officials, doctors, and engineers to live under these conditions.
2. The population of Sofia which was less than 300,000 prior to World War II, at present allegedly surpasses 700,000. Many are moving from the country to the cities, and particularly to Sofia. Only during the past year has the Government started making a special effort toward housing construction, and much work is in progress in Sofia, but it will be a long time before the backlog is made up, since before the war between twelve and fifteen thousand homes were built annually. The departure of many Soviets is rumored, however, and the people are rejoicing particularly since they will thus release many apartments. This rumor is connected with the recent return of three Soviet-Bulgarian joint companies to the Bulgarian economy.
3. Educated parents complain that their children are being taught only sciences, to the detriment of their knowledge of the Bulgarian language. The result is that there are engineers who are incapable of properly preparing the simplest report or even an ordinary request.

25X1

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